GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:420
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2002
RESEARCH ON UTILISATION OF RAIN WATER
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote the research on utilisation of unutilised rain water in order to tackle the problem of water crisis in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise/location-wise;

(c) whether any technique for utilisation of rain water exists in the country; and

(d) if so, the extent to which it has been useful ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION No. 420 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 12.8.2002 REGARDING RESEARCH ON UTILISATION OF RAIN WATER

(a) to (d) The National Water Policy envisages need for intensifying research efforts in the areas of water harvesting and ground water recharge, water conservation, better water management practices and improvements in operational technology among others. The rain water harvesting technology is more efficient and cost- effective. Percolation tanks, check dams, gabion structures, dug well recharge structure, recharge shafts, roof top rain water collection are some of the means of rain water harvesting. Various innovations in water conservation by augmentation, efficient utilisation and water quality preservation have been developed and are being practiced in the country. Mass awareness campaign is being run to bring awareness for water as a scarce resource and need for water conservation and its efficient utilisation through peoples' participation.

Central Ground Water Board has taken up a Central Sector Scheme on'Studies of Recharge to Ground Water' on pilot basis to appraise the applicability of these innovations. Under this, 174 schemes have been taken up in various parts of the country during Ninth Five Year Plan. Under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Ministry of Rural Development is also providing technical and financial assistance to the State Governments and other implementing agencies for rain water harvesting through Water Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rain water harvesting

Accordingly, Several State Governments have taken upthe steps to preserve traditional water sources such as ponds, canals and rivers to supply drinking water in rural as well as urban areas. Government of Madhya Pradesh has launched Pani Roko Abhiyan and Government of Andhra Pradesh has started implementation of Neeru − Meeru (water and you) programme for water conservation. Government. of Rajasthan has taken up the preservation of their traditional sources of water. Government of Maharashtra has started construction of Budkis, deepening and repairs of existing wells and other water sources. Government of Gujarat has also started rejuvenation of existing water sources.